

Application Serial No.: 09/457,049
Amendment and Response to June 2, 2006 Non-Final Office Action

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER

SEP 05 2006

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A method ~~for enabling a caller to locate~~ attempt communication with a called party using a computer system comprising:
determining two or more contacts associated with the called party from a contact list associating one or more contacts with each of a plurality of called parties;
determining a first contact method associated with a first contact of the two or more contacts, and a second contact method associated with a second contact of the two or more contacts;
providing a contact list manager (10) in which a called party can store a contact list (22) of two or more contacts; and upon receiving a request to locate a called party, referring to said contact list to automatically attempt to locate said called party, wherein said automatically attempt to locate said called party comprises:
automatically sending, by said computer system, a message via a using the first contact method to the first contact and automatically sending the message using the second contact method to the second contact toward, at least, a person other than said called party, said first contact method associated with a contact in said contact list, said message requesting location information regarding said a contact method associated with the called party;
receiving a response to said message from said person, said person being other than said caller the first contact, said response indicating a second third contact method, other than said first contact method, for attempting to reach associated with said called party; and
automatically processing the response to facilitate use of said using the second third contact method to attempt to reach communicate with said called party.
2. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1 wherein said contact list ~~manager further~~ comprises:

Application Serial No.: 09/457,049
Amendment and Response to June 2, 2006 Non-Final Office Action

one or more contact methods ~~(22a)~~associated with for each contact; and one or more rules ~~(24a) applicable associated with each~~to contacts and or contact methods method, each of the one or more rules indicating one or more conditions for sending the message regarding when or how to send a locator request.

3. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1 wherein said first, second and third ~~one or more contact methods~~ comprise is one or more methods selected from the group consisting of:

- one or more telephone numbers,
- one or more fax numbers,
- one or more pager numbers,
- one or more cell phone numbers, and one or more e-mail addresses.

4. (currently amended) A method according to claim 2 wherein said contact list ~~database stores additional~~ associates contact information with said contacts or said contact methods, the contact information designating ~~the~~ conditions for usage of said contacts or said contact methods.

5. (currently amended) A method according to claim 2 ~~wherein said automatically attempting to locate said called party comprises:~~

~~automatically sending one or more messages to parties listed in a contact list requesting location information regarding said called party;~~

~~receiving responses to said one or more messages and presenting a response to a calling party; and, further comprising:~~

~~cancelling outstanding the message sent using the second contact method in response to the messages when a response is received response.~~

6. (cancelled)

Application Serial No.: 09/457,049
Amendment and Response to June 2, 2006 Non-Final Office Action

7. (currently amended) The method according to claim ~~6-1~~ further comprising:
allowing a called party to configure said contact list.
8. (canceled)
9. (currently amended) A method according to claim ~~6-1~~, further comprising:
~~identifying wherein a the called party is identified; and~~
~~using the identity ies of called parties are used in part to determine system behavior.~~
10. (currently amended) A method according to claim ~~6-1~~ wherein said called party may configure system behavior for a calling party.
11. (currently amended) A method according to claim ~~6-1~~ wherein said message ~~is are~~ predetermined prior to ~~determining the first contact~~ receiving said request.
12. (currently amended) A method according to claim ~~6-1~~ wherein the ~~parties on the contact list may submit responses to said messages with~~ comprises information regarding associated with the called party.
13. (cancelled)
14. (currently amended) A method according to claim ~~6-1~~ wherein said messages may be automatically cancelled, expired or recalled based on a timer.
15. (currently amended) A method according to claim ~~6-1~~ wherein said messages may be automatically cancelled, expired or recalled based on the successful establishment of ~~a contact~~ between said calling party and said called party.
16. (currently amended) An apparatus to attempt communication with ~~for automatically locating~~ a called party comprising:

Application Serial No.: 09/457,049
 Amendment and Response to June 2, 2006 Non-Final Office Action

a contact list manager ~~(10) in which a called party can store~~ comprising a list ~~(22)~~
associating one or more contacts with each of a plurality of called parties, the contact list
manager to determine if two or more contacts associated with the called party, to
determine a first contact method associated with a first contact of the two or more
contacts, and to determine a second contact method associated with a second contact of
the two or more contacts; and

~~a configuration interface (18);~~

a locator to automatically send a message using the first contact method to the first
contact, and to automatically send the message using the second contact method to the second
contact, said message requesting a contact method associated with the called party, to receive a
response to said message from the first contact, said response indicating a third contact method
associated with said called party; and to automatically use the third contact method to attempt to
communicate with said called party

~~(60) capable of sending out location request messages, in response to invocation by a~~
~~calling party who is seeking to locate said called party, and receiving and handling responses,~~
~~wherein a response by a person other than said calling party, to a location request message sent to~~
~~a first destination (22a), indicates a second destination which is to be subsequently called to~~
~~reach the called party, and said first and second destinations are of different multimedia types.~~

17. (currently amended) An apparatus according to claim 16 further comprising:
 one or more contact lists ~~(22)~~ associated with one or more called parties; and
 one or more rule sets ~~(24)~~ associated with the one or more called parties.
18. (currently amended) An apparatus according to claim 16 further comprising:
~~one or more a system or group contact lists (12) providing~~ comprising contacts associated
~~with that are applicable to more than one called party; and~~
~~one or more a system or group rule sets (14) applicable~~ associated with ~~to~~ more than one
 called party.
19. (cancelled)

Application Serial No.: 09/457,049
Amendment and Response to June 2, 2006 Non-Final Office Action

RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER

SEP 05 2006

20. (currently amended) An apparatus according to claim 16 further comprising:
a cancellation module ~~(66)~~ for determining ~~when~~ to cancel outstanding messages and to
sending cancellation requests.
21. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1 wherein said ~~second-third~~ contact
method includes a telephone number ~~that is entered in full in response to said message by a~~
~~responding party.~~
22. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein said second contact
method includes a telephone number, and said first contact method includes an e-mail address.
23. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~wherein said automatically~~
~~processing the response comprises~~ further comprising automatically extracting said ~~second-third~~
contact method from said response.
24. (currently amended) A method according to claim 23 wherein said first contact method
and said second contact methods comprise ~~is a~~ telephone numbers, said ~~second-third~~ contact
method is a telephone number ~~spoken verbally by a responding party via telephone~~, and said
automatically extracting said ~~second-third~~ contact method from said response includes using
speech recognition software to extract said ~~second-third~~ contact method.
25. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~wherein said automatically~~
~~processing the response comprises~~ further comprising automatically extracting said ~~second-third~~
contact method using optical recognition software.
26. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~wherein said automatically~~
processing receiving the response comprises recording said response, and further comprising
transmitting audio associated with the second-third contact method ~~and playing the response for to~~
said caller.

Application Serial No.: 09/457,049
Amendment and Response to June 2, 2006 Non-Final Office Action

27. (cancelled)
28. (canceled)
29. (currently amended) A method according to claim ~~6~~ 1 ~~further comprising receiving a response to one of said messages, said one of said messages having been sent via a first contact method, said response including location information including a second contact method having a number or address that is manually or verbally entered by a responding party to indicate location of said called party, wherein said first contact method and ~~second~~ third contact methods are of different multimedia types.~~
30. (currently amended) A method according to claim 29 wherein one of said first and second contact methods is a telephone call number and ~~another~~ the other of said first and second contact methods is a text-based ~~messaging~~ message.
31. (cancelled)
32. (cancelled)
33. (cancelled)
34. (cancelled)
35. (cancelled)